

MINUTES
MAYOR'S BEAUTIFICATION COMMITTEE
September 1, 2015
Aging & Disability Resource Center, 300 Adams Street
4:00 PM

Members Present: Paul Hartman, Lynn Austin, Mike Spencer, Jim O'Rourke, Alderman David Nennig, Muriel Austin, Jim Sanderson

Chairman Paul Hartman called the meeting to order at 4:10 PM.

Discussion began with a review of last month's meeting with City Forester Mark Freberg. Every ten years, the UW Extension Office conducts a survey of trees. The Mayor's Beautification Committee would like to assist with the tree survey, with an aim to preserve old trees. Old trees can have historic value, as well as nostalgic appeal. Members suggested contacting the newspaper and getting neighborhood schools involved. Jim O'Rourke proposed adding a "neighborhood championship" category to the tree survey, in order to raise interest levels in smaller areas within the larger community. Another idea would be to plant stands of trees, such as birch or maples, in the vicinity of the "art canoes" by the river; these would be the same kinds of trees that each canoe is made of. Mike Spencer suggested coordinating with the Oneida forester regarding the tree survey. The question was raised as to whether trees standing on private property would be included; it was stated that there shouldn't be any problems as long as the program primarily directed its attention at trees within front yards and along the public right-of-way.

Jim O'Rourke also mentioned that the Friends of the Fox River will be clearing buckthorn in Allouez during September. Removing the buckthorn will provide space for new plant species to grow.

Lynn Austin showed an example of a digital map overlay: the "Head of the Bay" U.S. Military map, overlaid with a modern map showing what is currently on the same land. Both maps are of roads and sites within the City of Green Bay and surrounding area. A number of these map overlays were created through a cooperative effort with Jeff DuMez from Brown County Land Information. They would like to post the map overlays, when completed, on the LaBaye.org website; but at this time, that part of the project has not been funded. She also mentioned that the bill introduced last year by Senator Hansen, with the aim of updating an outdated law that prohibits the use of digital copies of historical vital records, was once again introduced into the Senate. An amendment to the bill was added in the State Assembly version that would greatly impede and limit the digital uses of records owned by private individuals. The current law was originally introduced in

the 1980s, making it a felony to create digital copies of birth, death or marriage records that are older than 1907. However, many of these early birth, marriage, and death records are of people who were not even U.S. citizens; some of the birth records are even of individuals born prior to the creation of the United States. Senator Hansen's original bill proposes removing the legal penalty, but the amendment being introduced by Representative Ballweg will greatly complicate that. The majority of the Wisconsin Register of Deeds voted in support of the original bill introduced by Senator Hansen; however, the Iowa County Register of Deeds requested that the more restrictive amendment should be added, requiring that an encryption be placed on all relevant digital files to prevent dissemination. This would greatly limit the use of personal copies of historical vital records owned by private citizens. Interested citizens should contact their legislature regarding this issue.

There was some discussion as to how the Navarino neighborhood, once the Town of Navarino, came by its name. Some historic documents state that "Navarino" means "place of the oaks." There was a famous sea battle between Greek and Turkish forces called the Battle of Navarino, named after the location where it was fought. Another possible connection is the early mission of Saint Francis Xavier: since Francis Xavier was originally from the town of Xavier in Navarre, it's possible that Navarino was derived from Navarre.

In response to a question by members, Jim O'Rourke mentioned that private land claims on the Fox River often stretched to three miles off the river in long narrow parcels. This arrangement was unique to parts of North America; in Quebec and France, the boundaries of land parcels bordering water were decided by different standards.

James Scott Sanderson joined the Mayor's Beautification Committee as a new member, representing District 7.

Paul Hartman notified the committee that the Mayor's Beautification Award Luncheon will take place on November 5 at Riverside Ballroom. Tickets are available at the Mayor's office.

The meeting was adjourned at 5:20 PM. Next month's meeting is scheduled for October 6.

Respectfully submitted,

Muriel Austin